

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Paragraph [0031] of the electronically filed specification is amended to read as follows:

Referring specifically now to Figure 2, there is shown a perspective view of a multiple channel, neurovascular phased array coil 100 suitable for SENSE imaging. The array coil 100 generally includes a cylindrically tapered, head portion 102 and a chest portion 104 that further includes a generally planar anterior section 104a and posterior section 104b. Although the chest portion sections are shown as generally planar in shape, it will be understood that both anterior and posterior sections 104a and 104b may be specifically shaped and/or contoured so as to be in close contact with the body of a patient placed therebetween. Included within the head portion 102 and the anterior and posterior sections 104a, 104b of chest portion 104 are individual, electrically conductive coil elements 106 for receiving RF signals generated by a patient (not shown) during the MR imaging process. In the embodiment depicted, there are eight coil elements 106 comprising the head portion, as well as four coil elements within each of the anterior and posterior sections 104a, 104b of the chest portion 104, for a total of 16 elements or channels in the array. In a preferred embodiment, each coil element 106 is geometrically separated or spaced apart from a nearest neighbor coil without overlap. As also seen in Figure 2, the cylindrically tapered, head portion 102 is configured such that the individual coil elements 106 therein are arranged so as to define a smaller diameter at a superior end of the head portion 102 with respect to the diameter at the inferior end of the head portion 102.